LIBRARY JOURNAL

APRIL 15, 1990

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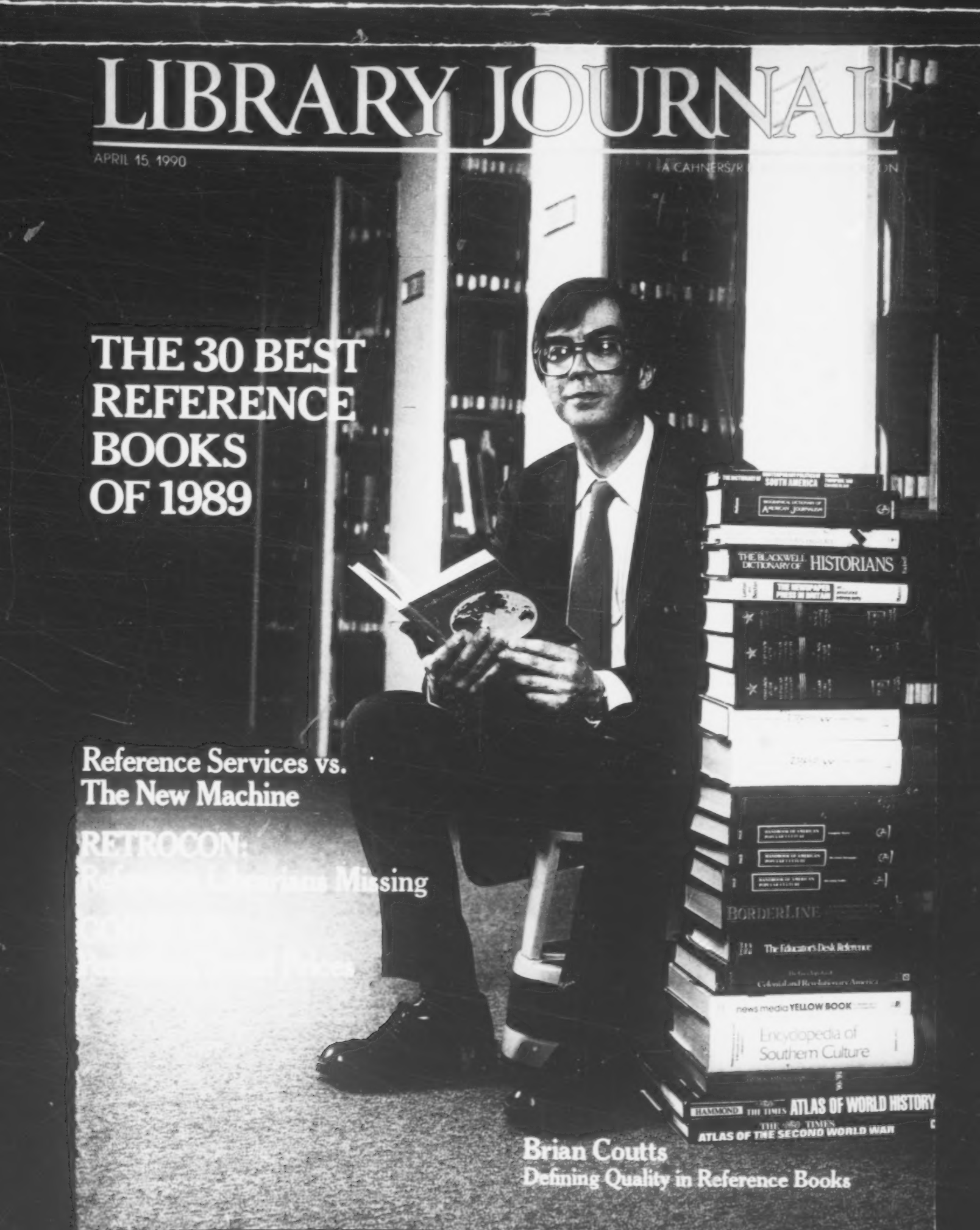
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The Educator's Desk Reference
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THE TIMES ATLAS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

THE 30 BEST REFERENCE BOOKS OF 1989

Reference Services vs. The New Machine

RETROCON: Missing

Brian Coutts
Defining Quality in Reference Books

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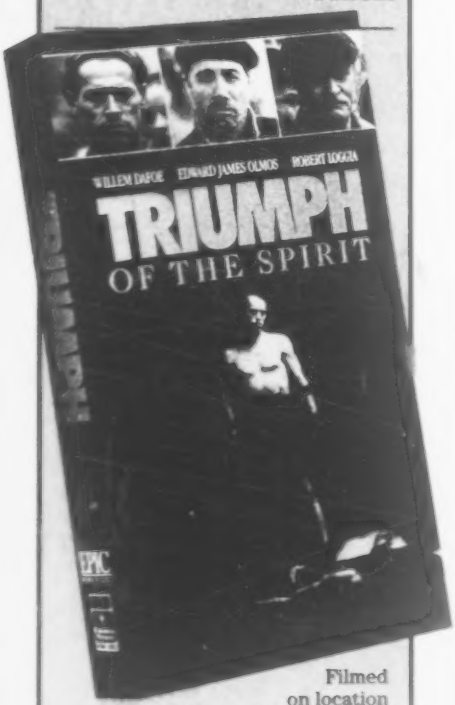
Your Library Patrons



Filmed on location in Auschwitz.

The rules were simple: you lose, you die. Survival was the prize. Salamo Arouch (William Dafoe), his family and friends are inmates in Auschwitz during World War II. For the amusement of his SS captors, Salamo, a former boxer, must fight against a fellow inmate; a fight without rounds, over when the loser can no longer stand. The winner receives a loaf of bread, the loser goes to the gas showers. Salamo must win fight after fight so that he can live, but someone must die. And all the time, he wonders how he can save his father . . . his friends. . . his soul.

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Brian E. Coutts, along with John B. Richard, authored this year's "Best Reference Books," page 32. Coutts also offers advice to librarians and publishers about the quality of reference.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAN LOFTIN/BLACK STAR

April 15, 1990

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LIBRARY MARKET OUTLOOK

BY DEBORAH SELSKY

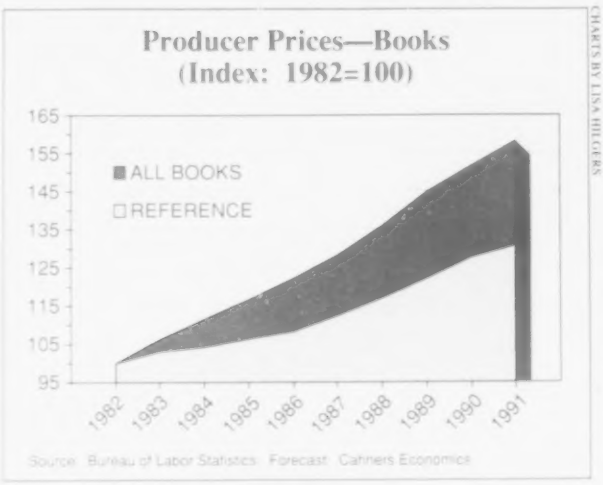
Reference Books: Smallest Gains in Overall Soaring Book Prices

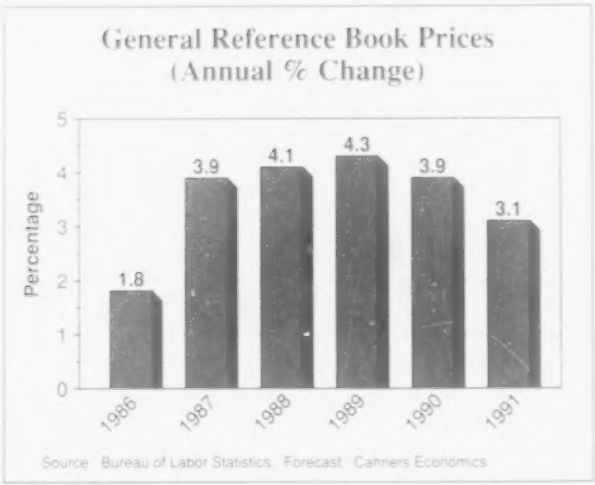
The inflation watch has been temporarily reinstated. Wholesale prices, as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistic's Producer Price Index for finished goods, increased 5.1 percent last year—the highest gain since 1981. In addition, from December 1989 to January 1990, prices increased at an annualized 25 percent. While most of the year-end 1989 price hikes stemmed from soaring fuel and food prices during an unusually cold December, the January gain cannot be explained by these same factors.

Since consumer prices tend to reflect gains in wholesale prices, consumer prices also soared in 1989, 4.8 percent above the year before. Consumer prices also saw a double-digit jump in January 1990. Indeed, these signs of inflationary pressures are causing considerable concern.

Reflecting the mounting inflationary pressures throughout the economy, book prices soared last year. In 1989, the producer price index for book publishing stood at an average of 144.7 (1982 = 100), up 6.5 percent above the previous year.

Book publishers continue to pass along their higher supply costs in the form of higher book prices. Book customers—consumers, schools, and libraries—must bear the brunt of these price gains. Fortunately, book price inflation is expected to ease this year as paper prices drop off. Book buyers will be faced with a 4.8 percent increase in 1990.





CHARTS BY LISA HILGERS

The price trends of specific types of books have varied a great deal. For the past two years, prices of general reference books saw the smallest gains— 4.1 percent in 1988 and 4.3 percent in 1989— of all the book categories.

From 1984 to 1989, reference book prices rose an average 3.4 percent per year, as compared to the 5.3 percent rate for all types of books.

The general reference book category includes encyclopedias, dictionaries, thesauri, and others. Last year, the price index for encyclopedias increased 4.2 percent above the year before.

Although the price index for dictionaries and thesauri is not yet available, it must have increased more than 4.3 percent in 1989 since overall reference books increased 4.3 percent. Still, the prices of reference books remain the most stable of all the book types.

Trade books have also seen modest gains over the past six years, averaging 3.4 percent annually. Meanwhile, the average price gain for religious books was 4.2 percent over this period and professional book prices rose 3.6 percent per year. It is important to note that the category of books that saw the greatest price increases is of little concern to librarians; textbook prices rose an average 6.6 percent per year from 1984 to 1989.

What accounts for the price variance between different types of books? In some cases, the greater the demand for the type of book, the more a publisher can "pass along" the production costs to the customer. More importantly, however, is the grade of paper and technical aspects of the production process that determine the price of a book.

Due to an oversupply situation, paper prices fell steadily in the last quarter of 1989 and will remain soft through at least the first half of this year. Cahners Economics expects paper prices to decline in 1990 before rebounding in 1991. This easing in paper prices should take some pressure off book publishers and their prices.

Deborah Selsky is an economist with Cahners Economics, which provides industry analyses and forecasting services for the markets its magazines serve

Public services librarians are affected by retrocon projects but fewer than half are involved in their planning or execution

RETROSPECTIVE CONVERSION: Reference Librarians Are Missing the Action

By Ilene Rockman

OVER THE past several years, academic libraries have engaged in retrospective conversion projects to facilitate the transition from the card catalog to the online catalog.[1] Despite the importance of including various points of view in the planning and decision-making processes for converting information to machine-readable formats, these decisions have been historically the exclusive purview of cataloging departments and technical services personnel.[2]

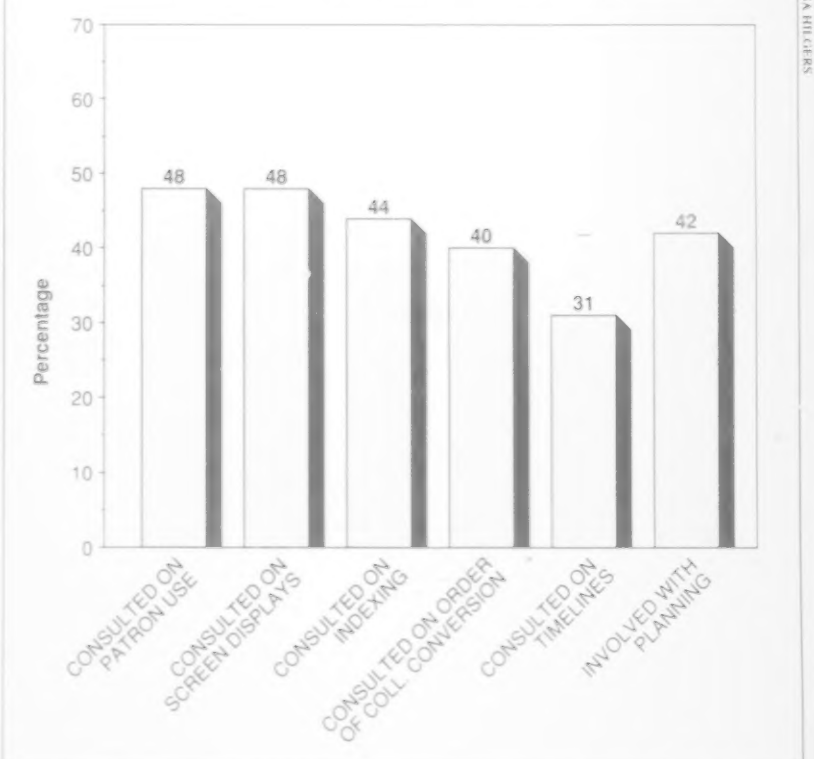
Often, retrocon functions such as editing, interfacing, and inputting are viewed as routine cataloging tasks. Yet, the information that is the core and focus of these tasks is of vital importance to reference staffs who are charged with interpreting catalog records for users, while teaching them to gain necessary conceptual and retrieval skills. Issues of prioritizing collections for retrocon, use of converted materials, level of information to be converted, time frame for conversion completion, authority control (names, subjects, uniform titles, series), and record accessibility are increasingly being discussed by nontechnical service librarians. As a result, conversion projects are leading to increased communication among librarians, and an erosion of barriers between public and technical service departments.[3]

The importance of reference personnel taking an active role in cata-

Ilene Rockman is Coordinator of Reference Services, Learning Resources and Curriculum Department, Kennedy Library, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Figure 1: Role of Reference and Public Service Personnel in Retrospective Conversion

CHARTS BY LISA HILGERS



loging functions has already been noted in the literature.[4] Recent writings about online public access catalogs (OPACs) have encouraged communication between public and technical service librarians regarding the design and management of the online catalog[5] and provisions for cooperation between reference librarians and catalogers to meet patron instructional needs.[6] However, a noticeable void exists in the literature concerning the role that public service librarians can play in the cooperative planning for a retrocon project prior to, or concomitant with, the implementation of an OPAC.

Retrocon and public service

With support from a campus Meritorious Performance and Professional Promise Award in 1988, the author was able to conduct an exploratory study of 83 academic reference and public service librarians in an effort to ascertain the extent to which they were aware of, involved in, or affected by conversion projects in their libraries. Data were also gathered concerning the attitudes of these librarians toward the amount of local information they received about their campus retrocon projects.

The study was limited to an examination of those libraries that were known to be in the process of converting their collections, or those that had recently signed a contract with an automation vendor to install an OPAC. No attempt was made to include either a representative sample of various collection sizes or geographic locales. Acceptable academic libraries to query were determined by lists provided by OPAC vendors, or from library names included in the latest annual surveys published in *LJ* and *Library Technology Reports*.[7] Although case studies and descriptive articles have been published that describe an individual library's experience with a retrocon project,[8] none have focused on the involvement of reference or public service librarians in coordinated online catalog policy decisions.

The survey procedure and results

A copy of an original four-page instrument, "Reference and Public Services Involvement in Retrospective Conversion," was sent to 83 academic reference managers and reference librarians in 1988. The direct-mail, self-reporting instrument contained 23 items designed in an open-ended, forced-choice, or Likert-type scale format. A cover letter was included with each questionnaire to assure the respondents of anonymity and confidentiality. The enclosure of a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope encouraged prompt return, and a follow-up postcard was sent three weeks later.

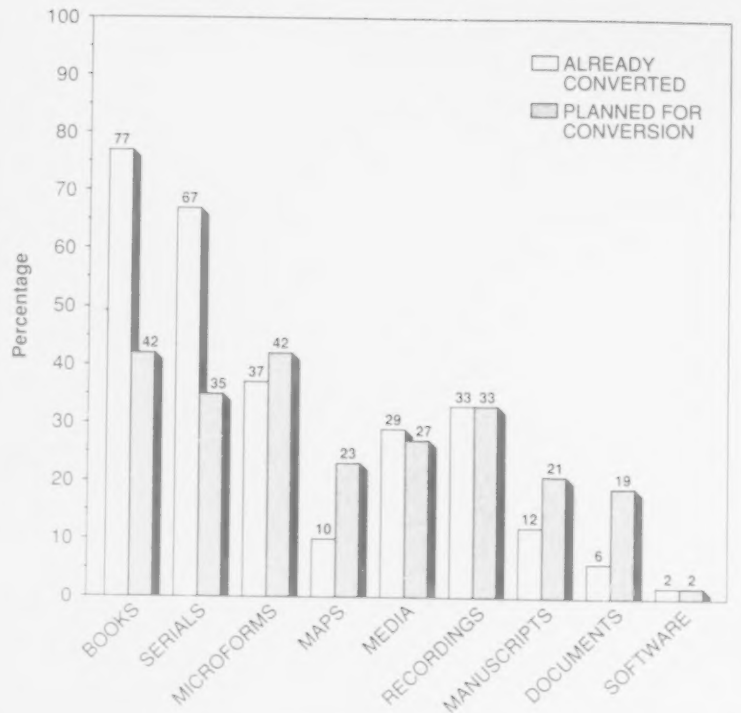
Of the 83 individuals selected for the study, 52 (63 percent) were deemed valid for use. Those responses that were declared to be invalid were excluded from consideration due to the refusal of the respondents to answer all or a majority of the questions, questionnaires erroneously forwarded to (and completed by) technical service librarians, or librarians working in libraries with fully converted collections already.

The extent to which librarians were in the process of completing a retrocon project is notable: over three-quarters of the librarians surveyed were currently engaged in plans to convert the information in their manual catalogs to machine-readable formats. As noted by Dwyer, the best library situation is total retrospective conversion, a single online catalog representing the library's entire collection,[9] but less than 25 percent of the respondents indicated that their libraries reflected this status.

In terms of those materials already converted with those planned for conversion, books accounted for the majority of items. Moreover, over two-thirds of the librarians had completed conversion of their serial holdings, a far more complex activity than book conversion. Materials less often converted and, therefore, less likely to be available online to users were microforms, maps, media, sound recordings, manuscripts, government documents, and computer software. Librarians recognize the importance of eventually including these special format materials in the online catalog, despite the fact that they may be more expensive, difficult, and time-consuming to convert than monographs and serials.

Who makes the library's conversion decisions? Over one-third of libraries rely upon a committee structure, one-fourth delegate retrocon decision-making to the head of technical services, close to a fifth defer to the head of cataloging, and less than ten percent depend upon the opinions of the head of reference or public service librarians for conversion decisions. These findings are not unusual, considering that workflow patterns, record completeness, authority control, and treatment of nonmatches or exceptions are not ordinarily part of the day-to-day challenges of reference work. The combined efforts of an outside vendor, in conjunction

Figure 2: Materials Conversion



with work performed by in-house library staff members, is the preferred method of retrocon, chosen by 35 percent of those who responded. In-house retrocon was chosen by 27 percent, outside vendor retrocon by 17 percent.

The crux of the study, however, lies in how reference and public service librarians perceive their involvement in, indicate their levels of retrocon awareness of, and report their levels of satisfaction with the status of the retrocon projects in their libraries.

The chart on page 40 indicates that less than half of the respondents believe that they have been consulted in any fashion, whether it be about patron use of the catalog, screen displays, record indexing, prioritizing types of materials for retrocon, timelines, or the overall planning process. A similar finding is reported for the opportunity to either consult with cataloging personnel or meet with them to provide a reference point-of-view.

Slightly more than half of the respondents claim to be aware (or very aware) of their library's retrocon project, and only 39 percent believe that retrospective conversion affects (or greatly affects) their daily work. About a third are satisfied with the percent of library materials included in their online catalogs, and less than a fourth want to know more about the specifics of their library's project.

To verify that reference and public service librarians actually understood the mechanics of a conversion project, a narrative portion of the survey instrument asked them to respond to the following instructions:

> Please briefly describe your understanding of the retrospective conversion process—write extemporaneously, and please do not consult any sources.[10]

Only 86 percent chose to respond to this open-ended narrative question. Although the percentage is respectable, responses varied from a brief one-sentence reply to a lengthy explanation of several paragraphs. These disparate answers might indicate that reference and public service librarians do not possess a uniform base of knowledge about the characteristics of a retrospective conversion project.

Reference has limited influence

From these findings, it appears that reference and public service librarians have limited influence in the decision-making for retrospective conversion. Despite this, they are aware of which materials have been (and will be) converted. Less than 50 percent are consulted by their technical service colleagues on record indexing, screen displays, and how patrons use the catalog. Consequently, only a small percentage:

- believe that the retrocon process affects their daily work;
- are satisfied with the amount of material in the OPAC;
- want to know more about their library's retrocon project.

These facts reveal a mixed message. As shown in the narrative responses, reference librarians do want to be involved in retrocon decision-making. However, their opinions are often underutilized, perhaps due to their limited knowledge of the MARC record and national cataloging practices. A retrocon project, instead of excluding them, can help them to gain necessary knowledge and skills to move from a reactive to a proactive role in influencing cataloging decisions at the local level. The anger expressed by some public service librarians about their limited role:

> The recon process here still seems to be the exclusive purview of technical services personnel. We seem to only get involved after the fact, when problems turn up on screen displays . . . .[11]

can develop into a wider appreciation of the team effort which is apparent in some libraries:

> think public service librarians [now] have a more sympathetic attitude toward [cataloging] difficulties and understand the [online] system better.[12]

Strengthen communication

Given the findings of this study, it appears that the benefits derived from the complexity of retrospective conversion experiences can help to increase and strengthen the lines of communication between public and technical service librarians.

Further investigations may be warranted to study the extent to which variations in library size and organizational structure can affect communication patterns, the level of knowledge reference personnel possess about the MARC record, and the role that reference librarians play in overall library decision-making.

As libraries continue to upgrade their records to support fully integrated automated systems at the local site, the involvement of reference and public services librarians in the decision-making processes continues to be of critical importance. With a greater knowledge of the MARC record and national cataloging standards, reference and public service personnel will be able to make well-informed decisions about the online catalog and retrospective decision projects, communicate more frequently and effectively with their technical services colleagues, and become proactive in influencing catalog policies and decisions.

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12. Anonymous respondent.

The 30th annual survey of U.S. periodical prices

Price Index for 1990:
U.S. Periodicals

By Peter R. Young & Kathryn Hammell Carpenter

PUBLICATION OF THE 1990 U.S. periodical price index constitutes the 30th annual national index study of this type sponsored by the Library Materials Price Index Committee (LMPIC) of the Association of Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS). ALCTS is a division of the American Library Association. For the sixth consecutive year, the 1990 price index survey is based on subscription price information supplied, compiled, and analyzed by the Faxon Company. Joint authorship of the 1990 price index article reflects the shared responsibility and concern of ALCTS's LMPIC and Faxon.

Faxon's ongoing business relationship with periodical publishers, together with a commitment to improve the effectiveness of periodical expenditures, provides the basis of Faxon's support for this price index study in conjunction with LMPIC. Further, studies of this nature are performed by the Faxon Institute, newly established to focus research on the long-term strategic public policies inherent in the scholarly and scientific communication process. The Faxon Company's periodical and serial management database, with over 200,000 domestic and foreign titles, serves as the source for U.S. periodical title subscription prices included in this price index study. Tables included in the 1990 study maintain the same basic format as previous studies in this series in order to facilitate comparisons.

Purpose, scope, and methodolgy

The purpose of this U.S. periodical price index survey is to measure changes in average 1990 U.S. periodical subscription prices charged to U.S. libraries for a sample of U.S. periodical titles. This price index information provides an economic indicator of average annual periodical price changes within a historical context. This information is designed for library use in budget planning and analysis. Also, these periodical price index data are intended to support research and analysis involving the systematic measurement of the extent of price changes by general subject categories on a periodic basis.

This periodicals price index accompanies the U.S. Serial Services Index which appears in this issue (see p. 57) under the authorship of Mary Elizabeth Clack, serials records librarian at Harvard College Library. Together these two annual studies follow guidelines, definitions, and criteria established in the ANSI Z39.20-1983 American National Standard for Library and Information Sciences and Related Publishing Practices—Criteria for Price Indexes.

Table I: Subject Categories in Rank Order by Average 1990 Subscription Price

Rank 1987	Rank 1988	Rank 1989	Rank 1990	Category	Average Subscription Price, 1990
1	1	1	1	Soviet Translations	$678.09
2	2	2	2	Chemistry & Physics	412.66
3	3	3	3	Medicine	217.87
4	4	4	4	Mathematics, etc.	188.19
5	5	5	5	Zoology	153.78
6	6	6	6	Engineering	138.84
7	7	7	7	Psychology	125.31
8	8	8	8	Sociology & Anthropology	77.61
11	9	9	9	Home Economics	64.49
10	10	11	10	Business & Economics	63.25
9	11	10	11	Journalism & Communications	60.85
12	12	12	12	Library & Information Sciences	57.34
13	13	13	13	Education	56.33
14	14	15	14	Industrial Arts	54.69
17	15	14	15	Labor & Industrial Relations	52.74
16	16	16	16	Law	50.32
15	17	17	17	Political Science	49.67
18	18	18	18	Agriculture	42.43
19	19	19	19	Fine & Applied Arts	36.89
21	20	20	20	History	35.51
22	21	21	21	Physical Education & Recreation	32.20
20	22	22	22	General Interest Periodicals	31.24
24	24	24	23	Philosophy & Religion	30.76
23	23	23	24	Literature & Language	30.63
25	25	25	25	Children's Periodicals	17.51
				U.S. Periodicals Index Excluding Soviet Translations	$93.45
				U.S. Periodicals Index Including Soviet Translations	$124.74

Peter R. Young is Executive Director of The Faxon Institute for Advanced Studies in Scholarly and Scientific Communication, Westwood, Massachusetts and Kathryn Hammell Carpenter is Bibliographer for the Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The authors wish to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance of the following Faxon staff in generating and tabulating data for this report: Barbara Celeste, Robert Davidson, Jane Harris, Jeanne Lestan, Ann Scherma, and Maddie Strigler

Table II: Subject Categories Ranked by Annual Subscription Price Percent Increases

Rank 1987	Rank 1988	Rank 1989	Rank 1990	Category	Percent Increase 1988 over 1987	Percent Increase 1989 over 1988	Percent Increase 1990 over 1989
14	16	23	1	Sociology & Anthropology	6.6	3.8	16.3
12	11	9	2	Agriculture	7.8	9.1	15.9
20	16	8	3	Industrial Arts	6.6	10.2	12.3
6	4	5	4	Chemistry & Physics	12.2	11.5	12.1
1	20	12	5	Political Science	4.0	8.4	10.3
19	9	16	6	History	9.1	7.0	10.0
15	6	15	7	Education	10.7	7.3	9.5
5	15	7	8	Medicine	6.7	10.3	9.4
9	8	2	8	Psychology	9.3	13.9	9.4
11	10	17	8	Law	8.8	6.2	9.4
16	14	14	9	Business & Economics	6.9	7.5	9.2
7	7	21	10	Soviet Translations	10.2	5.0	9.1
3	9	11	11	Mathematics, etc.	9.1	8.7	8.7
4	5	3	12	Engineering	11.0	11.8	8.2
10	2	4	12	Zoology	12.8	11.6	8.2
24	18	18	13	Philosophy & Religion	5.8	5.6	7.5
17	12	20	14	Physical Education & Recreation	7.2	5.4	6.8
17	3	6	15	Home Economics	12.5	11.3	5.8
2	16	19	16	Library & Information Sciences	6.6	5.5	5.3
23	21	21	17	General Interest Periodicals	1.8	5.0	5.2
13	17	13	17	Fine & Applied Arts	6.0	8.1	5.2
18	19	10	18	Journalism & Communications	5.4	8.9	4.7
21	1	1	19	Labor & Industrial Relations	14.0	15.0	4.1
22	13	22	19	Literature & Language	7.0	4.9	4.1
8	11	24	20	Children's Periodicals	7.8	3.4	3.3
				U.S. Periodicals Index Excluding Soviet Translations	9.1	9.5	9.5
				U.S. Periodicals Index Including Soviet Translations	9.4	8.2	9.4

The scope of this price index study is a selected sample of 3,942 periodical titles published in the United States, each of which has an established subscription price and fulfills the definition established in ANSI Z39.20-1983 as "a publication that constitutes one issue in a continuous series under the same title, published more than once a year over an indefinite period, with individual issues in the series numbered consecutively or with each issue dated. Newspapers are excluded."

Continuity with previous years' indexes is maintained by keeping the same periodical title sample as in previous years, except for those titles that ceased publication or otherwise changed for the 1990 subscription year and that no longer conform to the standard. Serial services, microform editions, electronic journals, annuals, and serial publications not adhering to the ANSI Z39.20-1983 definition of periodical are excluded from the survey. For the purposes of this study, periodicals that change title are considered to be the same publication if volume numbering remains continuous.

Because of the need to maintain historical continuity of current price index data with data appearing in previous years' studies, additional periodical titles meeting the criteria for inclusion in the study, over and above the 3,942 selected titles, have not been added to the survey title sample. Although the titles selection procedure represents a deviation from the ANSI Z29.20-1983 standard, LMPIC's emphasis on historical continuity justifies the title selection methodology used in this study.

Subscription price information for the 1990 subscription year is derived from the Faxon online periodical title subscription rate file as of January 31, 1990. This price information is added to Faxon's database from data provided directly by publishers and is applicable to U.S. libraries. Annual subscription prices employed in this study exclude any related service charges or discounts provided to Faxon by publishers.

The 1990 list subscription prices for the 37 titles included in this study not available through Faxon because of publisher arrangements were obtained directly from publishers through telephone contact. Prices for the three titles included in the 1990 study listed in Faxon's title database as suspended, delayed, slow, or "status-in-question," and for which Faxon has made no payment to publishers for 1990 subscriptions, are carried forward. If these titles reflect no activity for the 1991 subscription year, they will be dropped from next year's index and substitute titles will be indentified to replace them.

A total of 64 titles included in the 1989 price index study were dropped from the 1990 study for one of the following reasons:

- title suspended publication;
- subscription pricing variance;
- title no longer available on a subscription basis;
- title available free from publisher;
- delayed or slow appearance of issues;
- title no longer published in the United States; or
- title no longer conforms to the standard definition of periodical due to changes in pattern of publication.

Replacement titles for those 64 dropped from the 1990 price index study sample were selected according to criteria established by LMPIC. These replacement titles for the 1990 index study were selected as substitutes for dropped titles from the same subject category as listed in the 1989 index, on a title-by-title basis. In situations where multiple possible replacement titles were identified, those titles with the greatest number of Faxon client subscriptions were selected for inclusion in the 1990 study.

Replacement titles were identified using *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory, 1989–1990*, *LJ*'s Magazines column, "New Scholarly Journals" in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and publishers' announcements. The Faxon online database was consulted for information related to serials undergoing changes in titles or in country of publication. Library of Congress classification, title, date of first issue, publisher, country of origin, and place of publication information for each replacement title were verified in the MARC-S resource database available through the Faxon online serials system.

Average annual subscription prices charged to libraries and price indexes for each subject category were computed using the methodology specified in the ANSI Z39.20-1983 standard. This procedure involves the following process:

- For each of the 25 subject categories, the total annual 1990 subscription price is divided by the number of titles included in the category to determine an average price by category.

- Each average subscription price for 1990 is divided by the average price for the base period (1977) and multiplied by 100 for each subject category, to arrive at the appropriate 1990 price index for each category.

Table III: Average of Average Annual Percentages of Increase Since 1981 by Broad Subject Categories (Excluding Soviet Translations)

GENERAL INTEREST & CHILDREN'S PERIODICALS	
General Interest	4.7
Children's	8.4
BOTH CATEGORIES	6.0 *
HUMANITIES	
Fine & Applied Arts	7.1
Literature & Language	7.2
Philosophy & Religion	7.7
ALL HUMANITIES CATEGORIES	7.3 *
SOCIAL SCIENCES	
Business & Economics	9.6
Education	9.2
History	8.5
Journalism	8.4
Labor & Industrial Relations	11.0
Law	8.2
Library & Information Sciences	9.6
Physical Education & Recreation	8.9
Political Science	10.0
Psychology	11.6
Sociology & Anthropology	11.0
ALL SOCIAL SCIENCES CATEGORIES	9.6 *
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	
Agriculture	10.8
Chemistry & Physics	11.7
Engineering	11.0
Home Economics	10.3
Industrial Arts	10.3
Mathematics, etc.	10.8
Medicine	11.6
Zoology	13.3
ALL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CATEGORIES	11.2 *
U.S. PERIODICALS INDEX Excluding Soviet Translations	9.6

* Simple average, not weighted average

1990 index highlights

This year's periodical price index study shows U.S. periodical prices continuing to escalate in 1990, at roughly the same rate of increase as in 1989. The 1990 rate of increase was the same 9.5 percent for U.S. periodicals (not including Soviet Translations). The average subscription price for 1990 (not including Soviet Translations) was $93.45, compared to $85.37 in 1989. The sample size was 3,731 titles. The number of titles in each subject category is given in Table VII.

With Soviet Translations included, the average 1990 U.S. periodical subscription price increased 9.4 percent over 1989. This rate of price increase for all titles in this year's price index study represents a 15 percent increase over a 1989 price increase of 8.2 percent. The average 1990 subscription price, including Soviet Translations, was $124.74 compared with $114.07 in 1989, a difference of $10.67. The sample size for 1989 remained at 3,942 titles.

The average annual subscription prices of U.S. periodicals, as demonstrated by this study, continue to outpace changes in the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) as shown in Chart A. Over the past four years the LMPI has increased annually at a rate two-and-a-half times the rate of the CPI increase. For the purposes of this comparison, the CPI was recalculated to a base of 1977 as 100 in order to calculate relative rate increase from a common base year.[1]

Rankings of the average subscription prices for the 25 subject categories for 1990, once again this year, demonstrate that periodical titles for Chemistry and Physics represent the highest average subscription price of $412.66, with Soviet Translations excluded. Those titles in the subject category of Children's Periodicals rank lowest in subscription prices with an average price of $17.51. The average 1990 subscription price for titles in all 25 subject categories included in this study is $124.74, or $93.45 if Soviet Translations are excluded.

Chart A reflects the relationship between the U.S. Periodical Index (USPI) and the Consumer Price Index (CPI). In addition, for the first time this year, Chart A includes a comparison with the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI)[2]. In 1989, the average price of U.S. periodicals (including Soviet Translations) as measured by the USPI increased at a rate almost double the U.S. rate of inflation as measured by the CPI.

Table I provides a ranking of the average subscription prices for the 25 subject categories included in the survey. Grouping the subject categories into the following ten price ranges, based on 1990 subscription rate prices in U.S. dollars, results in the following breakdown:

Under $20	1 category
$20—$29	0 categories
$30—$39	6 categories
$40—$49	2 categories
$50—$59	5 categories
$60—$69	3 categories
$70—$79	1 category
$100–$149	2 categories
$150–$250	3 categories
Over $300	2 categories

The rankings differ only slightly from those compiled for 1988 and 1989. Beyond Soviet Translations, Chemistry and Physics titles included in the sample have the next highest average subscription price, followed by those in the categories of Medicine and Mathematics, etc. There has been no change in the eight subject categories ranked the highest in average price in the last five years. For 1990, the average price of titles in these eight subject areas was $249.04, or twice the average 1990 subscription price based on all 25 subject categories (including Soviet Translations).

Table II provides a ranking of subject categories by percent of average annual increase in subscription price in 1990 over the average increases reported for 1989. When percentage of increase is the same, the categories are assigned the same ranking. Titles in the Sociology and Anthropology sample showed the highest percent increase for 1990 going from 23rd in 1989 to first in 1990, breaking a trend noted in last year's study where titles in Labor and Industrial Relations increased at the greatest rate. Price increases for titles in Agriculture (going from ninth in 1989 to second in 1990), increasing 15.9 percent over 1989, reflected the next highest price percent increase. Average increases over ten percent in 1990 compared with 1989 were also recorded for titles in the History (16th to sixth), Political Sciences (12th to fifth), Chemistry and Physics (fifth to fourth), and Industrial Arts (eighth to third) samples.

Of the eight subject categories showing the highest average subscription price for 1990, only two also ranked among those that experienced the greatest percent increase in 1990 subscription prices: Chemistry and Physics, and Sociology and Anthropology. Those subject categories demonstrating the greatest increases in subscription prices in 1990 were not confined to the sciences, but also included social science titles.

Table III details the averages of average annual percentage increase since 1981 based on broad subject categories. These rates of change reveal general price increases for titles in the Science and Technology category outpace the changes in the other broad categories.

Table IV provides a three-year breakdown of the Mathematics, etc. category into five detailed subcategory components. In 1990, the average price of titles in the Earth Sciences sample rose to $129, an increase of 10.9 percent and the highest rate of increase recorded within the Mathematics and General Science category. The Life Sciences, which had the highest rate of increase in 1987 and 1988, ranked fifth both in 1989 with a rate increase of 6.9 percent, and again

in 1990 with a rate of increase of only 5.7 percent. In general, 1990 continues the moderation of increases noted over the past three years for periodical title subscription prices in the Mathematics, etc. category.

Table V consists of a three-year comparison of the percentage of titles increasing in price in each subject category for the 1988–1990 period. Forty-four percent of titles in the sample increased in price in 1990 (47 percent including Soviet Translations). Soviet Translations increased 99 percent in 1990. Eighty-five percent of the Chemistry and Physics titles and 71 percent of the Medical titles increased in price in 1990.

Table VI provides average price for 1990 by a detailed subject breakdown of the titles in the periodical price index according to the initial single and two-letter LC classification assigned to each title in Faxon's online title database. Single letter LC classifications show the totals and average of the two-letter subclasses. The highest rates of increase in 1990 were for titles classified in Environmental Technology and Sanitary Engineering (TD) at 19.9 percent, Sociology, Public Welfare, and Criminology (HV) at 17.6 percent, and Geography and Oceanography (G-GC) at 18.5 percent. Titles in the T and G classes not broken down into finer subject divisions increased by 17.1 percent and 19.7 percent, respectively.

Table VII compares the price indexes for U.S. periodicals for each of the 25 individual subject categories using 1977 as the base period. With between 44 and 47 percent of sampled titles increasing in price, the 1990 price index reflects an average price increase trend of nearly 280 percent in a 13-year period. The average annual price increase since 1977 is ten percent, but over the past seven years (1984–1990) the average annual price increase has been 9.3 percent excluding Soviet Translations.

In all but six categories, the USPI has risen to 300 or above, indicating an increase in price of 300 percent over subscription prices compiled for 1977, the base year. In the case of Chemistry and Physics, Labor and Industrial Relations, Medicine, and Zoology, the USPI has risen above 400, indicating a price increase of over 400 percent since 1977. While the annual rate for U.S. periodicals has decreased from double to single digits in most categories in recent years, Table VII reveals that rising U.S. periodical subscription prices continue to be a significant trend.

Table IV: Breakdown of Mathematics, etc. Category

Subcategory	No. of Titles			Average Price			% Increase		
	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990
Mathematics	73	74	76	$216.18	$232.56	$251.99	8.2	7.6	8.4
Earth Sciences (incl. Geography titles)	63	63	61	106.25	116.29	129.00	8.6	9.5	10.9
Life Sciences	44	44	44	244.38	261.16	276.17	11.6	6.9	5.7
Botanical Sciences	29	29	29	76.90	84.86	93.31	6.1	10.4	10.0
General Science (incl. Astronomy titles)	29	28	28	84.93	97.75	104.07	9.5	15.1	6.5
MATHEMATICS, ETC.	238	238	238	159.33	173.21	188.20	9.1	8.7	8.7

Table V: Percentage of Titles Increasing in Price Per Subject Category: Three-Year Comparison

Category	1988	1989	1990	Average 1988–90
Agriculture	27	28	33	29
Business & Economics	37	39	37	38
Chemistry & Physics	81	85	85	84
Children's Periodicals	23	37	33	31
Education	35	52	47	45
Engineering	46	58	51	52
Fine & Applied Arts	34	35	30	33
General Interest Periodicals	28	33	31	31
History	21	30	28	26
Home Economics	31	41	37	36
Industrial Arts	35	53	44	44
Journalism & Communications	32	42	31	35
Labor & Industrial Relations	34	40	31	35
Law	33	30	29	31
Library & Information Sciences	36	31	42	36
Literature & Language	35	34	33	34
Mathematics, etc.	55	59	56	57
Medicine	72	77	71	73
Philosophy & Religion	26	29	34	30
Physical Education & Recreation	28	34	28	30
Political Science	33	46	39	39
Psychology	67	69	72	69
Sociology & Anthropology	46	34	59	46
Soviet Translations	97	55	99	84
Zoology	52	59	41	51
U.S. Periodicals Index Excluding Soviet Translations	41	46	44	44
U.S. Periodicals Index Including Soviet Translations	44	46	47	46

Chart A: Price Index Comparison (CPI, HEPI, USPI)

	Index						% Increase Over Previous Year			
	CPI 1977	CPI 1967	CPI 1982–84	HEPI 76/77	USPI excl. Sov. Trans.	USPI incl. Sov. Trans.	CPI	HEPI	USPI excl. Sov. Trans.	USPI incl. Sov. Trans.
1986	180.9	328.4	110.5	185.5	264.3	261.5	1.9	4.0	8.9	8.2
1987	187.5	340.4	115.4	193.6	290.4	288.3	3.7	4.4	9.9	10.3
1988	195.2	354.3	120.5	205.6	316.9	315.5	4.1	6.2	9.1	9.4
1989	204.6	371.3	126.1	n/a	347.2	341.3	4.8	--	9.5	8.2
1990	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	380.0	373.3	--	--	9.5	9.4

n/a = not available

The periodical prices and findings reported in this annual study of 3,942 U.S. periodical titles may vary from other periodical pricing studies performed using different sample selection criteria and from studies conducted by individual libraries that reflect unique local serials collections. Most published price indexes are not intended as a substitute for more precise, institution-specific statistical information based on actual individual library expenditure patterns. Libraries developing local indexes of U.S. periodical prices and price trends for multiple years can usefully employ information contained in this annual price index for

Table VI: 1990 Average Subscription Price by Library of Congress Classification (Including Soviet Translations)

Classification code			No. of Titles 1990	Average Price 1990	No. of Titles 1989	Average Price 1989	Average Price 1988	Percent Increase 1990/1989	Percent Increase 1989/1988
A	General Works		112	$24.47	118	$23.07	$23.10	6.1	-0.1
B	Philosophy, Psychology, Religion		209	59.21	210	55.47	48.83	6.7	13.6
	B-BD, BJ	Philosophy	39	53.71	39	50.42	48.64	6.5	3.7
	BF	Psychology	77	105.01	77	98.87	82.49	6.2	19.9
	BL-BX	Religion	93	23.61	94	22.02	21.05	7.2	4.6
C	Auxiliary Sciences of History		13	42.62	13	37.85	38.75	12.6	-2.3
D	History: General & Old World		66	45.64	66	42.03	38.97	8.6	7.9
E-F	History: America		119	26.24	119	24.71	23.17	6.2	6.6
G	Geography, Anthropology, Recreation		156	65.14	157	59.02	56.42	10.4	4.6
	G-GC	Geography, Oceanography	32	162.15	35	136.78	128.98	18.5	6.0
	GN	Anthropology	20	85.50	19	77.26	72.56	10.7	6.5
	GV	Recreation	95	29.54	94	27.98	26.79	5.6	4.4
		All other G codes	9	50.67	9	42.33	41.38	19.7	2.3
H	Social Sciences		569	69.42	572	62.86	58.46	10.4	7.5
	H	General	29	72.21	29	66.00	58.86	9.4	12.1
	HB-HC	Economic theory, hist. & cond.	50	88.32	50	82.06	76.26	7.6	7.6
	HD	Land, Agriculture, Industry	126	55.70	130	52.28	49.15	6.5	6.4
	HE	Transportation & Communication	29	41.19	29	39.36	38.34	4.6	2.7
	HF	Commerce	96	57.98	99	53.82	48.98	7.7	9.9
	HG-HJ	Finance, Public finance	76	69.91	76	61.72	56.94	13.3	8.4
	HM	Sociology (General)	30	114.62	28	100.93	94.50	13.6	6.8
	HQ	Family, Marriage, Woman	46	83.45	43	78.86	78.13	5.8	0.9
	HV	Social/public welfare, Criminology	50	86.30	47	73.41	67.26	17.6	9.1
		All other H codes	37	63.92	41	56.54	50.69	13.1	11.5
J	Political Science		79	55.37	77	50.08	45.61	10.6	9.8
K	Law		268	52.01	265	47.45	44.47	9.6	6.7
L	Education		184	52.92	182	49.20	45.12	7.6	9.0
M	Music		38	32.52	38	31.00	28.70	4.9	8.0
N	Fine Arts		79	37.88	76	36.43	34.24	4.0	6.4
P	Language and literature		224	35.85	223	34.74	32.41	3.2	7.2
	P	Philology & linguistics	18	63.94	20	57.65	53.65	10.9	7.5
	PN	Literary history	116	37.15	113	36.69	33.97	1.3	8.0
	PR-PS	English literature, American literature	41	23.77	41	22.90	21.53	3.8	6.4
		All other P codes	49	32.55	49	30.80	29.54	5.7	4.3
Q	Science		589	380.96	588	346.68	320.22	9.0	7.6
	Q	Science (General)	37	145.86	37	134.50	119.27	7.8	11.3
	QA	Mathematics	112	323.92	108	297.69	280.01	8.1	5.9
	QB	Astronomy	16	364.83	16	336.50	317.12	7.8	5.8
	QC	Physics	99	580.56	101	521.71	482.61	10.1	7.5
	QD	Chemistry	79	553.14	80	493.44	459.99	10.8	6.8
	QE	Geology	28	211.68	29	188.59	177.97	10.9	5.6
	QH	Natural History (incl. General Biology)	81	385.42	81	352.26	329.67	8.6	6.4
	QK	Botany	19	137.21	19	125.63	118.26	8.4	5.9
	QL	Zoology	53	236.23	53	208.48	190.08	11.7	8.8
	QP	Physiology	45	352.84	44	332.55	290.74	5.8	12.6
	QR	Microbiology	20	377.25	20	355.05	342.75	5.9	3.5
R	Medicine		279	139.26	277	127.48	116.51	8.5	8.6
	R	Medicine (General)	36	143.31	36	134.18	123.78	6.4	7.8
	RA	Public aspects of medicine	34	135.90	34	123.25	115.12	9.3	6.6
	RC	Internal medicine	110	140.15	108	128.61	118.92	8.2	7.5
	RD	Surgery	22	120.18	22	113.00	100.05	6.0	11.5
	RM	Therapeutics, Pharmacy	20	134.05	20	120.73	109.75	9.9	9.9
		All other R codes	57	146.19	57	131.57	117.02	10.0	11.1
S	Agriculture		215	57.07	216	52.57	46.45	7.9	11.6
	S	Agriculture (General)	70	67.17	71	59.29	54.19	11.7	8.6
	SB	Plant culture	46	53.85	47	49.47	46.65	8.1	5.7
	SF	Animal culture	72	38.77	72	37.31	33.89	3.8	9.2
		All other S codes	27	85.16	26	82.09	60.50	3.6	26.3
T	Technology		591	160.71	592	147.44	135.61	8.3	8.0
	T	Technology (General)	28	118.75	29	113.26	103.44	4.6	8.7
	TA	Engineering, Civil engineering	74	251.45	72	228.90	219.09	9.0	4.3
	TD	Environmental tech., Sanitary eng.	24	152.02	27	121.72	107.76	19.9	11.5
	TH	Building construction	27	64.77	26	59.26	56.14	8.5	5.3
	TJ	Mechanical engineering & machinery	57	233.46	58	213.58	194.67	8.5	8.9
	TK	Electricrical eng., Electronics	60	188.58	58	180.03	163.89	4.5	9.0
	TL	Motor vehicle, Aeronautics, Astronautics	29	83.46	30	74.58	67.63	10.6	9.3
	TN	Mining engineering, Metallurgy	41	242.33	41	273.55	257.73	-12.9	5.8
	TP	Chemical technology	83	229.57	85	211.36	190.09	7.9	10.1
	TS	Manufactures	65	67.36	63	62.78	58.25	6.8	7.2
	TT	Handicrafts, Arts & Crafts	31	25.15	32	24.58	22.80	2.3	7.3
	TX	Home Economics	42	53.01	41	48.92	42.37	7.7	13.4
		All other T codes	30	68.30	30	56.63	52.30	17.1	7.6
U-V	Military Science, Naval Science		23	24.76	22	23.39	26.20	5.6	-12.0
Z	Bibliography, Library Science		129	69.08	131	64.72	60.67	6.3	6.2

Table VII: U.S. Periodicals: 1977–1990
Index of 100.0 Equivalent to Average Prices for 1977
Parenthetical information applies to 1990

U.S. PERIODICALS Excluding Soviet Translations
(64 titles dropped; 64 added; 44% of the titles increased in price)

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	3,218	24.59	--	100.0
1982	3,544	44.80	14.5	182.2
1983	3,674	50.23	12.1	204.3
1984	3,731	54.97	9.4	223.5
1985	3,731	59.70	8.6	242.8
1986	3,731	65.00	8.9	264.3
1987	3,731	71.41	9.9	290.4
1988	3,731	77.93	9.1	316.9
1989	3,731	85.37	9.5	347.2
1990	3,731	93.45	9.5	380.0

U.S. PERIODICALS Including Soviet Translations
(64 titles dropped; 64 added; 47% of the titles increased in price)

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	3,418	33.42	--	100.0
1982	3,750	58.72	14.7	175.7
1983	3,881	65.74	12.0	196.7
1984	3,942	72.47	10.2	216.8
1985	3,942	80.78	11.5	241.7
1986	3,942	87.38	8.2	261.5
1987	3,942	96.36	10.3	288.3
1988	3,942	105.45	9.4	315.5
1989	3,942	114.07	8.2	341.3
1990	3,942	124.74	9.4	373.3

AGRICULTURE
(1 title dropped; 1 added; 33% of the titles increased in price)

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	138	11.58	--	100.0
1982	149	19.76	14.6	170.6
1983	150	21.27	7.6	183.7
1984	153	24.06	13.1	207.8
1985	153	26.05	8.3	225.0
1986	153	28.71	10.2	248.0
1987	153	31.14	8.4	268.9
1988	153	33.56	7.8	289.8
1989	153	36.62	9.1	316.2
1990	153	42.43	15.9	366.4

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS
(5 titles dropped; 5 added; 37% of the titles increased in price)

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	236	18.62	--	100.0
1982	253	32.67	13.1	175.5
1983	257	35.67	9.2	191.6
1984	262	38.87	9.0	208.8
1985	262	44.41	14.3	238.5
1986	262	47.15	6.2	253.2
1987	262	50.39	6.9	270.6
1988	262	53.89	6.9	289.4
1989	262	57.93	7.5	311.1
1990	262	63.25	9.2	339.7

CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS
(0 titles dropped; 0 added; 85% of the titles increased in price)

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	135	93.76	--	100.0
1982	165	177.94	13.8	189.8
1983	167	207.94	16.9	221.8
1984	170	228.90	10.1	244.1
1985	170	238.43	4.2	254.3
1986	170	264.05	10.7	281.6
1987	170	294.05	11.4	313.6
1988	170	329.99	12.2	352.0
1989	170	367.99	11.5	392.5
1990	170	412.66	12.1	440.1

CHILDREN'S PERIODICALS
(3 titles dropped; 3 added; 33% of the titles increased in price)

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	67	5.82	--	100.0
1982	76	9.90	15.7	170.1
1983	78	11.49	16.1	197.4
1984	78	12.21	6.3	209.8
1985	78	13.31	9.0	228.7
1986	78	13.76	3.4	236.4
1987	78	15.19	10.4	239.7
1988	78	16.39	7.8	281.5
1989	78	16.95	3.4	291.2
1990	78	17.51	3.3	300.9

EDUCATION
(2 titles dropped; 2 added; 47% of the titles increased in price)

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	168	17.54	--	100.0
1982	190	28.18	11.9	160.7
1983	199	31.36	11.3	178.8
1984	203	34.01	8.5	193.9
1985	203	37.81	11.2	215.6
1986	203	40.47	7.0	230.7
1987	203	43.30	7.0	246.9
1988	203	47.95	10.7	273.4
1989	203	51.43	7.3	293.2
1990	203	56.33	9.5	321.2

ENGINEERING
(7 titles dropped; 7 added; 51% of the titles increased in price)

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	235	35.77	--	100.0
1982	248	61.54	12.8	172.0
1983	265	73.18	18.9	204.6
1984	265	78.70	7.5	220.0
1985	265	84.38	7.2	235.9
1986	265	92.66	9.8	259.0
1987	265	103.49	11.7	289.3
1988	265	114.83	11.0	321.0
1989	265	128.37	11.8	358.9
1990	265	138.84	8.2	388.2

FINE & APPLIED ARTS
(3 titles dropped; 3 added; 30% of the titles increased in price)

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	141	13.72	--	100.0
1982	142	23.35	13.8	170.2
1983	145	25.17	7.8	183.5
1984	145	26.90	6.9	196.1
1985	145	27.03	0.5	197.0
1986	145	28.28	4.6	206.1
1987	145	30.58	8.1	222.9
1988	145	32.43	6.0	236.3
1989	145	35.07	8.1	255.6
1990	145	36.89	5.2	268.9

GENERAL INTEREST PERIODICALS
(2 titles dropped; 2 added; 31% of the titles increased in price)

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	161	16.19	--	100.0
1982	176	23.93	9.6	147.8
1983	177	26.43	10.4	163.2
1984	181	27.90	5.6	172.3
1985	181	26.41	-5.3	163.1
1986	181	26.95	2.0	166.4
1987	181	27.79	3.1	171.7
1988	181	28.29	1.8	174.7
1989	181	29.69	5.0	183.4
1990	181	31.24	5.2	193.0

HISTORY
(5 titles dropped; 5 added; 28% of the titles increased in price)

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	138	12.64	--	100.0
1982	143	20.37	13.4	161.2
1983	151	22.43	10.1	177.5
1984	151	23.68	5.6	187.3
1985	151	25.55	7.9	202.1
1986	151	26.04	1.9	206.0
1987	151	27.64	6.2	218.7
1988	151	30.16	9.1	238.6
1989	151	32.27	7.0	255.3
1990	151	35.51	10.0	281.0

HOME ECONOMICS
(4 titles dropped; 4 added; 37% of the titles increased in price)

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	74	18.73	--	100.0
1982	84	34.27	25.3	183.0
1983	88	35.68	4.1	190.5
1984	90	37.15	4.1	198.3
1985	90	41.04	10.5	219.1
1986	90	45.59	11.1	243.4
1987	90	48.67	6.8	259.9
1988	90	54.73	12.5	292.2
1989	90	60.92	11.3	325.3
1990	90	64.49	5.8	344.3

INDUSTRIAL ARTS
(3 titles dropped; 3 added; 44% of the titles increased in price)

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	87	14.37	--	100.0
1982	99	27.13	19.9	188.8
1983	104	28.83	6.3	200.6
1984	106	30.40	5.4	211.6
1985	106	35.09	15.4	244.2
1986	106	39.75	13.3	276.6
1987	106	41.45	4.3	288.4
1988	106	44.20	6.6	307.6
1989	106	48.68	10.2	338.8
1990	106	54.69	12.3	380.6

JOURNALISM & COMMUNICATIONS
(3 titles dropped; 3 added; 31% of the titles increased in price)

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	85	16.97	--	100.0
1982	86	33.91	13.8	199.8
1983	88	37.39	10.3	220.3
1984	90	39.25	5.0	231.3
1985	90	46.08	17.4	271.5
1986	90	47.54	3.2	280.1
1987	90	50.66	6.6	298.5
1988	90	53.39	5.4	314.6
1989	90	58.13	8.9	342.6
1990	90	60.85	4.7	358.6

LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
(0 titles dropped; 0 added; 31% of the titles increased in price)

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	61	11.24	--	100.0
1982	65	24.72	14.0	219.9
1983	69	29.22	18.2	260.0
1984	70	29.87	2.2	265.7
1985	70	34.75	16.3	309.2
1986	70	37.14	6.9	330.4
1987	70	38.65	4.1	343.9
1988	70	44.06	14.0	392.0
1989	70	50.65	15.0	450.6
1990	70	52.74	4.1	469.2

Table VII (Continued): U.S. Periodicals: 1977–1990
Index of 100.0 Equivalent to Average Prices for 1977
Parenthetical information applies to 1990

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
LAW (12 titles dropped; 2 added; 29% of the titles increased in price)				
1977	229	17.36	--	100.0
1982	255	27.53	11.0	158.6
1983	267	29.66	7.7	170.9
1984	273	31.31	5.6	180.4
1985	273	35.13	12.2	202.4
1986	273	36.44	3.7	209.9
1987	273	39.82	9.3	229.4
1988	273	43.33	8.8	249.6
1989	273	46.01	6.2	265.0
1990	273	50.32	9.4	289.8
LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCES (2 titles dropped; 2 added; 42% of the titles increased in price)				
1977	89	16.97	--	100.0
1982	111	33.52	17.7	197.5
1983	117	36.72	9.5	216.4
1984	118	38.85	5.8	228.9
1985	118	40.66	4.7	239.6
1986	118	42.82	5.3	252.4
1987	118	48.42	13.1	285.3
1988	118	51.61	6.6	304.1
1989	118	54.45	5.5	320.8
1990	118	57.34	5.3	337.9
LITERATURE & LANGUAGE (4 titles dropped; 4 added; 33% of the titles increased in price)				
1977	138	11.82	--	100.0
1982	156	19.39	12.1	164.0
1983	157	21.19	9.3	179.3
1984	158	23.02	8.6	194.8
1985	158	24.18	5.0	204.6
1986	158	25.21	4.2	213.3
1987	158	26.21	4.0	221.7
1988	158	28.04	7.0	237.3
1989	158	29.41	4.9	248.8
1990	158	30.63	4.1	259.1
MATHEMATICS, BOTANY, GEOLOGY, & GENERAL SCIENCE (2 titles dropped; 2 added; 56% of the titles increased in price)				
1977	185	47.13	--	100.0
1982	217	87.99	16.4	186.7
1983	228	97.26	10.5	206.4
1984	238	106.56	9.6	226.1
1985	238	116.93	9.7	248.1
1986	238	129.95	11.1	275.7
1987	238	146.08	12.4	310.0
1988	238	159.33	9.1	338.1
1989	238	173.21	8.7	367.5
1990	238	188.19	8.7	399.3
MEDICINE (0 titles dropped; 0 added; 71% of the titles increased in price)				
1977	172	51.31	--	100.0
1982	172	102.87	19.1	200.5
1983	177	112.72	9.6	219.7
1984	182	125.57	11.4	244.7
1985	182	137.92	9.8	268.8
1986	182	151.77	10.0	295.8
1987	182	169.36	11.6	330.1
1988	182	180.67	6.7	352.1
1989	182	199.22	10.3	388.3
1990	182	217.87	9.4	424.6
PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION (0 titles dropped; 0 added; 34% of the titles increased in price)				
1977	107	10.89	--	100.0
1982	117	17.92	16.4	164.6
1983	126	20.21	12.8	185.6
1984	130	21.94	8.6	201.5
1985	130	24.30	10.8	223.1
1986	130	24.85	2.3	228.2
1987	130	25.60	3.0	235.1
1988	130	27.09	5.8	248.8
1989	130	28.62	5.6	262.8
1990	130	30.76	7.5	282.5
PHYSICAL EDUCATION & RECREATION (0 titles dropped; 0 added; 28% of the titles increased in price)				
1977	130	10.00	--	100.0
1982	142	16.91	9.7	169.1
1983	150	19.07	12.8	190.7
1984	151	20.54	7.7	205.4
1985	151	23.72	15.5	237.2
1986	151	24.78	5.3	249.8
1987	151	26.67	6.8	266.7
1988	151	28.60	7.2	286.0
1989	151	30.16	5.4	301.6
1990	151	32.20	6.8	322.0
POLITICAL SCIENCE (4 titles dropped; 4 added; 39% of the titles increased in price)				
1977	123	14.83	--	100.0
1982	133	25.99	14.1	174.6
1983	136	28.97	11.9	195.3
1984	136	32.43	11.9	218.7
1985	136	32.72	0.9	220.6
1986	136	35.19	7.5	237.3
1987	136	39.95	13.5	269.4
1988	136	41.55	4.0	280.1
1989	136	45.03	8.4	303.6
1990	136	49.67	10.3	334.9
PSYCHOLOGY (2 titles dropped; 2 added; 72% of the titles increased in price)				
1977	110	31.74	--	100.0
1982	131	54.21	14.7	170.8
1983	136	59.31	9.4	186.9
1984	138	69.74	17.6	219.7
1985	138	76.34	9.5	240.5
1986	138	83.71	9.7	263.7
1987	138	92.05	10.0	290.0
1988	138	100.57	9.3	316.8
1989	138	114.52	13.9	360.8
1990	138	125.31	9.4	394.8
SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY (9 titles dropped; 9 added; 59% of the titles increased in price)				
1977	128	19.68	--	100.0
1982	145	36.38	16.0	184.9
1983	149	40.54	11.4	206.0
1984	149	43.87	8.2	222.9
1985	149	50.87	16.0	258.5
1986	149	56.31	10.7	286.1
1987	149	60.29	7.1	306.4
1988	149	64.27	6.6	326.6
1989	149	66.73	3.8	339.1
1990	149	77.61	16.3	394.4
SOVIET TRANSLATIONS (0 titles dropped; 0 added; 99% of the titles increased in price)				
1977	200	175.41	--	100.0
1982	206	298.22	17.5	170.0
1983	207	341.04	14.4	194.4
1984	211	381.86	12.0	217.7
1985	211	453.47	18.8	258.5
1986	211	483.09	6.5	275.4
1987	211	537.54	11.3	306.4
1988	211	592.22	10.2	337.6
1989	211	621.70	5.0	354.4
1990	211	678.09	9.1	386.6
ZOOLOGY (1 title dropped; 1 added; 41% of the titles increased in price)				
1977	81	33.69	--	100.0
1982	89	61.07	26.4	181.3
1983	93	70.74	15.8	210.0
1984	94	78.35	10.8	232.6
1985	94	90.75	15.8	269.4
1986	94	102.83	13.3	305.2
1987	94	112.91	9.8	335.1
1988	94	127.33	12.8	378.0
1989	94	142.13	11.6	421.9
1990	94	153.78	8.2	456.5

comparison purposes and as a context for monitoring trends from a national framework.

Ongoing responsibility for continuing the price indexes for periodicals and serials services rests with the ALA ALCTS Library Materials Price Index Committee. Comments may be addressed to Kathryn Hammell Carpenter, Bibliographer for the Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago, Box 8198,M/C 234, Chicago, IL 60680, the current committee chair.

References

1. Consumer Price Information obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for the 1988 calendar year was recalculated to a base year of 1977. For the purposes of this article, the USPI 1977 base period has been maintained to provide consistency with prior years' U.S. periodical price indexes. The CPI numbers (1967 = 100) were converted to a base year of 1977 = 100 by multiplying each index number by 100 and then dividing by the CPI for 1977 (181.5).
2. Research Associates of Washington. *Higher Education Prices and Price Indexes: 1989 Update*. From 2605 Klingle Rd. NW, Washington, DC 20008.

CALENDAR

Montana Library Association, Alabama Library Association, Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians Conference

APRIL

22-25—Montana Library Association, Heritage Inn, Great Falls. Theme: "Images of Service." Contact: Gwen Carter, Great Falls PL, 301 2d Ave. N., Great Falls, MT 59401-2593.

24-27—Alabama Library Association, Perdito Beach Hilton, Orange Beach. Theme: "Cajun Kaleidoscope: Look What's Cooking on the Coast." Guest speaker: Justin Wilson, Cajun cook and author. Contact: Mary Ann Johnson, 307 N. Summit St., Fairhope, AL 36532; 205-460-7043.

25-27—Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians Annual Conference, Concourse Hotel, Madison. Theme: "Capitalizing on the Future: Challenges and Opportunities for Academic Librarians." Contact: Lois Komai or Jean Gilbertson, Univ. of Wisconsin Lib., 550 Babcock Dr., Madison, WI 53706; 608-263-6373.

25-28—New Jersey Library Association Spring Conference, Meadowlands Hilton, Secaucus. Theme: "Libraries: Endless Possibilities." Contact: Cynthia Czesak, Clifton PL, 292 Piaget Ave., Clifton, NJ 07011.

MAY

2-4—Illinois Library Association, Prairie Capitol Convention Center, Springfield. Theme: "Agenda for the 90's: Libraries, Leadership, Legislation, Literacy." Information: Illinois Library Association, 312-644-1896.

2-5—The Mountain Plains Library Association/Utah Library Association Joint Conference, Red Lion Hotel, Salt Lake City. Theme: "The Best for the Patron." Three program tracks available: "Understanding the Clientele," "Organizational Professional Development," and "Service Vitality." Contact: Merna Smith, Salt Lake City PL, 209 E. Fifth S., Salt Lake City, UT 84111; 801-363-5733.

4-6—University of South Florida Seminar on International and Comparative Librarianship, Tampa. Conducted by Dr. John A. McCrossan. Those who register for credit must also attend a second session in June. Contact: Holly Hill, School of Library and Information Science, HMS 301, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620-8300; 813-974-3520.

6-18—Library Administrators Development Program Twenty-Fourth Annual Session, University of Maryland. Director: Dr. John Rizzo, Professor of Management, Western Michgan University. Sessions will concentrate on the principal administrative issues for senior managers, strategic planning and management by objectives, leadership, employee motivation, individual and group decision making, performance appraisal, conflict management, financial planning and analysis, marketing, and managing change. Contact: Rosemary Miller, Administrative Assistant, Library Administrators Development Program, CLIS, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742; 301-454-6080.

8-10—New York Home Video Show, New York Passenger Ship Terminal. Exposition/seminar program for producers, distributors, mass merchandisers, and retailers of home video programs. Contact: Debbie Rotolo, Knowledge Industry Pubns., 701 Westchester Ave., White Plains, NY 10604; 914-328-9157 or 800-248-KIPI.

9-11—The National Library History Seminar, Bloomington, Ind. Theme: "Reading and Libraries." Guest speakers: Harvey J. Graff, an authority on history/philosophy of literacy; Carl F. Kaestle, historian of American education. Fee: $125. Contact: Dr. Donald G. Davis, Jr., Austin, TX; 512-471-3821.

NATIONAL/ INTERNATIONAL

American Association of Law Libraries: Minneapolis, Jun. 16-21; New Orleans, Jul. 21-24, 1991.

American LA: Chicago, Jun. 23-28; Atlanta, Jun. 29-Jul. 4, 1991. **Midwinter:** Chicago, Jan. 12-17, 1991.

American Theological LA: Evanston, Ill., Jun. 25-30.

British LA Conference and Exhibition: Brighton, United Kingdom, Sept. 4-7.

Canadian LA: Ottawa, Ontario, Jun. 13-17.

Church and Synagogue LA: Portland, Oreg., Jul. 1-3.

Integrated Online Library Systems '90: Sheraton Centre, New York, May 2-3.

International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology: Poughkeepsie, N.Y., May 30-Jun. 3.

International Conference of Judaica and Israeli Librarians: Jerusalem, Jul. 3-5.

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions: Stockholm, Sweden, Aug. 18-24.

Medical LA: Detroit, May 18-24.

National Library Week: Apr. 22-28.

Sixth National Bookmobile Conference: Columbus, Ohio, Jun. 3-5.

Special LA: Pittsburgh, Jun. 9-14.

White House Conference on Library and Information Services: Washington, D.C., Jul. 9-13, 1991.

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